

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069144  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SIG-01  
AID-05 IO-13 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /088 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C: GHAMILTON:MJT  
APPROVED BY AF/C: TRBUCHANAN  
-----290543Z 018714 /22

O 290332Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT:CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON  
ZAIRE

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1. PARAS 2 - 9 CONTAIN PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR MARCH  
23 DEPT BRIEFING FOR USE ONLY IF ASKED:

2. Q: HAS THE TOWN OF MUTSHATSHA BEEN TAKEN BY THE  
INVADERS?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT MUTSHATSHA HAS BEEN TAKEN.

3. Q: WHAT ABOUT THE MISSIONARIES INSIDE THE AREA HELD BY HOSTILE FORCES?

A: REPORTS REACHING OUR EMBASSY IN KINSHASA INDICATE THAT THEY ARE ALL WELL.

4. Q: IS THERE ANY FURTHER WORD ON THE AID REQUEST?

A: THE ZAIRIAN AID REQUEST REMAINS UNDER CAREFUL STUDY; NO FURTHER DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE.

5. Q: DOES THE EMBASSY IN KINSHASA PLAN TO SEND OBSERVERS TO WESTERN SHABA TO OBTAIN A CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING THERE?

A: THERE ARE NO CURRENT PLANS TO SEND EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO THE SHABA OPERATIONS AREA, THAT IS, THE REGION FROM KAPANGA SOUTH TO DILOLO AND EAST TO MUTSHATSHA. WE DO HAVE A CONSULATE, HOWEVER, IN LUBUMBASHI, THE REGIONAL CAPITAL OF SHABA.

6. Q: WE UNDERSTAND THAT A FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE, SHELDON VANCE, IS NOW IN KINSHASA. WHAT IS THE REASON FOR HIS VISIT?

A: MR. VANCE, WHO IS RETIRED FROM THE FOREIGN SERVICE, IS IN KINSHASA ON A PRIVATE BUSINESS VISIT, REPRESENTING SEVERAL AMERICAN CLIENTS OF THE LAW FIRM OF WHICH HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS A MEMBER.

7. Q: IN SUPPORTING MOBOTU ARE WE IN DANGER OF HITCHING OUR WAGON TO A FALLEN STAR?

A: FOR THE SEVENTEEN YEARS SINCE INDEPENDENCE WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE. WE SUPPORT THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THAT COUNTRY. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INVASIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, CONTINGENCY PLANNING  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE069144  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GHAMILTON:MJT  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, CG, AO  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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